1 Gregory F. Buhyoff Nevada Bar No. 7627 2 Law Office of Gregory F. Buhyoff, P.C. 1635 Village Center Circle, Suite 140 3 Las Vegas, NV 89134-6375 (702) 804-6154 Telephone 4 (702) 804-6748 Facsimile 5 Attorneys for Defendants 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 DISTRICT OF NEVADA 9 10 CAESARS WORLD, INC. and PARK PLACE ENTERTAINMENT 11 Case No. CV-S-02-1287-RLH-RJJ CORPORATION, 12 Plaintiffs, MOTION OF ATTORNEY 13 GREGORY F. BUHYOFF, ESQ. TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL OF VS. 14 RECORD FOR DEFENDANTS CYRUS MILANIAN AND THE CYRUS MILANIAN and THE NEW LAS 15 **NEW LAS VEGAS** VEGAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC DEVELOPMENT COMPANY 16 Defendants. 17 18 19 Gregory F. Buhyoff, Esq. of the Law Office of Gregory F. Buhyoff, P.C. ("Attorney"), after 20 providing notice to both Defendants and opposing counsel, respectfully moves this Court for 21 22 permission to withdraw as counsel of record for Defendants CYRUS MILANIAN and THE NEW 23 LAS VEGAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC pursuant to LR IA 10-6 of the U.S. District Court 24 Rules. This Motion is based on the recitation of facts and conclusions set forth below. 25 On January 6, 2003, Defendants sought legal representation from Nevada counsel in 1. 26 connection with the above-captioned matter. At the time, Defendants were facing a January 21, 2002 27 28 consolidated hearing on all of the issues raised by PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY

INJUNCTION AND FOR ADVANCEMENT AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE TRIAL ON THE MERITS WITH THE HEARING OF THE MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION ("Plaintiffs' Motion") and, before that, a deadline of January 9, 2003 to oppose Plaintiffs' Motion.

Defendants were desperate to quickly retain new counsel, as their previous counsel had withdrawn from the case on or about December 19, 2002.

- 2. Attorney accepted the representation on the *express condition* that it would be strictly limited to responding to Plaintiffs' Motion and attempting to settle the case in advance of the January 21, 2003 hearing. It was made clear to both Defendants at the outset that under no circumstances would Attorney be willing to try the case. It was also made clear to both Defendants that at such time as it became evident that the case could not be settled, Attorney would immediately withdraw from the representation. Both Defendants agreed to this limited representation.
- On January 9, 2003, Attorney timely filed Defendants' Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion and Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment.
- 4. On Friday, January 10, 2003, in the late afternoon, Attorney was informed that Defendant Milanian was scheduled to have his deposition taken the following Monday, January 13, 2003, but that Defendant Milanian would be unable to attend his deposition for medical reasons. Attorney was given no prior notice of said deposition. Defendant Milanian was advised to obtain a letter from the treating physician documenting the reasons why he was unable to attend his deposition and forward the same to opposing counsel prior to the deposition. Defendant Milanian did not obtain said letter until January 14, 2003, the day after the deposition. As a result, Attorney spent the better part of two days addressing this and related issues with opposing counsel and this Court.
- 5. On January 15, 2003, after extensive discussions with both Defendants, Attorney was given authority to settle the case based on certain terms. Late in the evening on January 15, 2002, Attorney

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reached a tentative agreement with opposing counsel in general accordance with the authority given to him earlier in the day by Defendants. Attorney and opposing counsel agreed that the latter would prepare a written settlement agreement that would be submitted to the Defendants for their final review. Later that evening, Attorney telephoned both Defendants to inform them of the general terms of settlement and asked them to be available the following day for follow up discussions and to review the written settlement agreement that would be prepared by opposing counsel.

- 6. The following morning, Attorney tried to reach Defendant Milanian several times to discuss the settlement agreement and make logistical arrangements to sign the written settlement agreement if its terms were acceptable. Defendant Milanian did not return any of Attorney's calls. In the meantime, Attorney was contacted by Melvin Silverman, Esq., a new attorney to whom Defendant Milanian had entrusted the matter without informing Attorney of the same. Mr. Silverman provided Attorney with his preliminary comments concerning the proposed terms of settlement and Attorney and Mr. Silverman agreed that Attorney would forward Mr. Silverman a copy of the draft settlement agreement as soon as Attorney received the same from opposing counsel.
- Late in the day on January 16, 2003, Attorney was finally able to reach Defendant Milanian, who told Attorney that Attorney should discuss all matters relating to the case with Mr. Silverman. Attorney agreed to do so, and told Defendant Milanian to be available first thing in the morning on January 17, 2003 to confer with Attorney and Mr. Silverman regarding the draft written settlement agreement, a copy of which was also forwarded to Defendant Milanian in the late afternoon of January 16, 2003. Attorney also reminded Defendant Milanian that he would immediately withdraw from the case if it did not settle in the morning of the following day.
- 8. On January 17, 2003, settlement discussions reached an impasse when the parties failed to agree as to the terms of the written settlement agreement.

No Prejudice to Defendants

As noted above, Attorney and Defendants agreed that the extent of Attorneys representation of Defendants would be limited to filing a response to specific papers and trying to settle the case before the hearing. Since agreeing to the limited representation, Attorney has endured significant difficulties in representing Defendant Milanian. Not only did Defendant Milanian fail to timely inform Attorney of the deposition he was to attend on January 13, 2003, but he failed to follow instructions and inform opposing counsel in advance that he would be unable to attend his deposition. At a critical stage of settlement negotiations, Defendant Milanian failed to return Attorney's repeated telephone calls, despite agreeing to be available throughout the day on January 16, 2003. Instead, without informing Attorney in advance, Defendant Milanian entrusted this matter to a new attorney who has since agreed to continue the representation.

10. As noted above, each Defendant agreed from the beginning that Attorney's representation of them would be strictly limited, and that Attorney would withdraw from the case as soon as it became clear that it would not settle before trial. This Motion is therefore no surprise to Defendants.

Moreover, as Attorney has been involved in the matter for only two weeks, and has no familiarity with it except to the extent of reading Plaintiffs' Motion and responding to it, and Attorney has not prepared to try the case (and could not have properly prepared), new counsel would be able to prepare for trial as quickly as Attorney could. Therefore, no one will be prejudiced if Attorney is permitted to withdraw from the case.

Based on the foregoing, Attorney

respectfully requests the Court to grant him permission to withdraw from the case.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of January, 2003.

LAW OFFICE OF GREGORY F. BUHYOFF, P.C.

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